

Board Meeting

1st Monday of each month
7:30 PM to 9:30 PM
Hollywood Multi-Purpose Center
2030 Polk St., Hollywood
EVERYONE WELCOME

Directions to Hollywood German American Club

From the FL Turnpike:
Follow the Turnpike to the Hollywood Blvd exit. Take Hollywood Blvd. heading east. Proceed to S 62nd Ave, turn right. Continue down S 62nd Avenue to Washington Street. Turn right onto Washington and continue to the end, the German American Club is at the end of the street. *Distance from the Turnpike is a approximately three quarters of a mile.*

Dec. 03/Jan. 04



Web Site: www.sfsds.com

Upcoming Club Dances

December 19th German-American Club 6401 Washington St. Hollywood
Lesson: Stevie Young (7:30PM)
DJ: Jim Bergeron (8:30PM)
January 17th German-American Club 6401 Washington St. Hollywood
Lesson: Randy Atlas (7:30PM)
DJ: Randy Atlas (8:30PM)

Swing Time

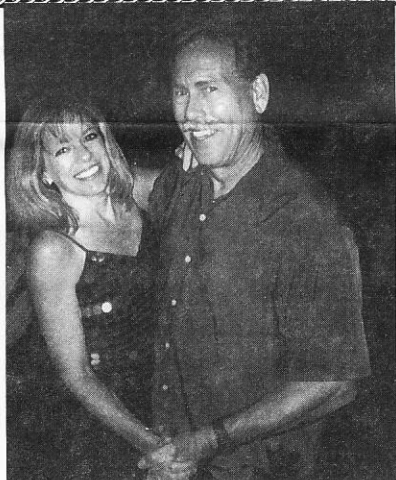
December Instructor, Stevie Young

(Pictured Below)

Stevie Young has recently moved to the Boynton Beach area by way of Albuquerque, New Mexico and Houston, Texas. Stevie began country western and swing dancing five years ago and after steadily competing in the UCWDC circuit, found that West Coast Swing was her passion. Since then she has dedicated her free time to going to events and taking privates with the best of the best. Stevie also has put together syllabi for studios to use in teaching West Coast to new dancers, covering technique, patterns, and the ability of "playing to the music".

Stevie manages Toni Lynn's Baton and Dance in Loxahatchee, Florida and is available for private lessons throughout the week. Stevie says, "I am very excited to be here and honored to be teaching at the December party. I look forward to meeting you all and dancing with you in the future."

(Editor's Note: I've had the pleasure of dancing with Stevie, leaders do yourself a favor and ask her for a dance!)



CONGRATULATIONS to Jerry Guthrie and Carrie Miessau on their engagement aboard the Royal Majesty while enjoying a cruise with fellow Dance Maniacs.

Jerry popped the surprise on Carrie while the band played "Can I have This Dance" in the background.

Jerry, the gentleman that he is, proposed on one knee in the center of the dance floor. Carrie accepted and now the happily ever after part will start.

Carrie and Jerry would like to thank all the Dance Maniacs and SFSDS friends for making this just a little more joyous and memorable for them. When you bump in to the be sure and congratulate them on their engagement.



SFSDS is a
Member Of:

National
Fast Dance
Association

Note from the President:

Hello Dancers and Happy Holidays

On **Friday**, December 19 we are going to *rock around the clock*. Ok, only to 12:30, but make sure you come out and join us. This is the club's holiday dance and once again, it is free to members.



In my last note I made a big omission which I just caught and I want to apologize to Bruce Perrotta. Bruce, too, is remaining on the board for this year as treasurer. He is doing a wonderful job, helps out all the time and has turned out to be a terrific writer along with being a lot of fun and very forgiving on the dance floor. Ladies, thank Bruce for all of his hard work by asking him to dance as he is truly one who makes his dance partners feel special, even beginners.

On October 19th, the board members met for a goal setting/brainstorming session to plan this coming year. I want to report that you have a wonderful board that cares about you and this club. The following is a list of goals and plans we discussed. After reading it, please call me to say which one you are interested in helping to make happen.

1. Continue working on club's reputation to become one of the friendliest swing dance clubs in the country. Watch for those "Ask me to dance" buttons that will be appearing soon.

2. Start having road trips again (I hear the club members did this often in the past). There are many swing dance clubs in Florida holding monthly dances and we would like to (as a group) take occasional trips to attend them. The idea is to drive up on a Friday, find some fun activity for during the day on Saturday such as Bush Gardens, then dance the night away and drive home again on Sunday.

3. Provide teaching skills education to experienced members of our club who are willing to teach 5 to 8 week courses in the basics at community centers and life long learning programs. If you are interested in teaching, please contact me.

4. Continue providing many dancing opportunities. Watch the weekly e-mail for new dance venues.

5. Print shirts with the club logo.

I encourage you to become involved, please do not leave all the work up to your board members. They have other things in their lives going on too.

The board made a decision to discontinue the club's hotline as it is rarely used. If you do use the hotline, please keep your newsletter for information. Most folk are using the website or receiving the club's weekly e-mail to stay informed. You can always call a board member for information. (continued, above right)

(Note From Pres. (continued))

Last reminder, please bring in your membership renewal at the December dance or mail it to the club's P.O. Box before 12/31/03 to take advantage of the \$5 savings. Now onto all those egg-nogs and hopefully holiday hugs!! **Deborah**

CLUB OFFICERS

President	Deborah Bergeron	954-575-5600
VP	Marilyn Roy	305-596-4341
Treasurer	Bruce Perrotta	954-975-6800
Secretary	Franchesca Valenzuela	561-615-0504
Membership	Susan McMahon	954-474-1010

BOARD MEMBERS

Frank Szabo	954-969-0066
Rodney Tison	954-815-0505
Jan Lovett	305-595-1250
Jim Bergeron	954-575-5600
Jeff Biggs	561-285-4141
Donna Sacco	954-764-7244
Suellen Clementino	954-497-3060

COMMITTEES

Newsletter	Jim Bergeron
Photos	Jim Bergeron
Hot Line	Jan Lovett
Web Site	Jim Bergeron (www.sfsds.com)
E-Mail	Jim Bergeron
Phone	Marilyn Roy
Social/Dance	Frank Szabo
Food	Suellen Clementino
PR/Publicity	Bruce Perrotta

Deadline for
next issue is
January 15.
Price
schedule for
ads at right.

# of Issues	1	2	3	4	5	6
Bus Card	10	20	25	35	40	50
1/4 page	15	30	40	50	65	75
1/2 page	30	60	80	100	130	150
Full Page	60	120	160	200	260	300



South Florida Swing Dance Society

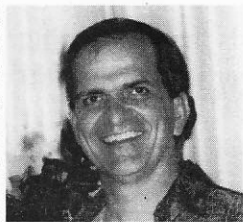
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Hollywood, FL 33081-4147

Http://www.sfsds.com

Make sure you're on our weekly E-mail list, send "add me to the E-mail list" w/ your first & last name and E-mail address to Swingdance@bellsouth.net

What's in a word?
From the Editor. Jim Bergeron



I took a minute to visit www.dictionary.com and typed in the word *Volunteer*. In return I received, "A person who performs or offers to perform a service voluntarily."

Sounds pretty simple, doesn't it? All the officers and Board Members of SFSDS are volunteers who are working to make a better and bigger dance community locally. Each one of us donates a fair amount of time in our respective functions. (I'm sure those that have volunteered in the past know what I mean.) These functions include (but are not limited to) handling your money cautiously, scheduling workshops, scheduling and working the dances, preparing food, attending meetings, managing the web page, distributing the weekly email, right down to publishing this newsletter. (Yes, this publication is printed by a board member at affordable rates.) One goal we all have in common is to work to hopefully provide a quality activity for everyone.

Look at the list to the left, each committee head and member is spending time and energy on items that are well outside their area of expertise. Each dance takes hours of preparation by the board, by the instructors and the officers of current dance hall.

Each dance for the past couple of years has featured an instructor who *Volunteers* (there's that word again) their time to provide those in attendance moves, techniques and exercises to improve the local dancer! Each and every one of us should be grateful for the time and efforts of these instructors.

The Board is grateful for the instructors time and efforts. Those who are at the lesson should be grateful because they receive training. Those who miss the lesson should be grateful for getting partners a bit more trained than when they arrived. Yes, we all benefit!

Next dance take the time to thank the instructor, or, better yet, think about taking a lesson or two to make their efforts worthwhile.

How about each of you figuring how you could volunteer a little time occasionally? Don't gripe about something you don't like to your dance buddies. If you want results, volunteer a couple hours a month and show up at a meeting as some members do. If you cannot make a meeting send your interest to me and I'll be sure it gets added to the agenda.

OK, time for me to volunteer to get off this soapbox, but please remember none of the board or instructors gets anything from our efforts except personal satisfaction. And, yes, that is why we do it.

The dance is a poem of which each
 movement is a word.

Mata Hari

Come Dance With Us!

Sunday Afternoon, February 1, 2004.
From 1:00 to 5:00 PM in the Ballroom of the Coral
Gables Elks Club.

6304 SW 78th St., South Miami.

The Coral Gables Elks

and

The South Miami Dance Club

Presents

Mike Suman's "Swing City" Band

\$10.00/person: Details, Contact Virginia at 305-223-6666



At Left:
DJ Dominic
 spinning some
 tunes at the
 monthly Texan on
 the Trax dance.
 (Note: Texan host
 a dance the 3rd
 Sunday of every
 month from 3:00
 PM until 8:00PM)

DECEMBER DANCE MENU

Last year's Pot-Luck Dinner turned out so nice, we would like to repeat it this year. For variety and plenty of choices please refer to the list below for suggestions on what you can bring to the December 19th dance:

If your last name begins with either:

A, B, C	(dessert)
D, E, F	(cheese & cracker tray)
G, H, I	(hot vegetable)
J, K, L	(hot pasta dish)
M, N, O	(cold pasta dish)
P, Q, R	(cold vegetable dish)
S, T, U	(dips or snacks)
V, W	(appetizer tray)
X, Y, Z	(cold vegetable salad)

Please call Suellen at 954-647-9276 to confirm that you will bring a dish. If you would prefer to bring something other than the above please call Suellen before the dance. SFSDS will provide meats, paper goods, & sterno racks for the hot foods. Make sure you mark your containers with your name and pick them up at the end of the night, the German-American Club will not be responsible for anything left behind.

We look forward to seeing you at the Holiday Dance on December 19th and wish you all a Very Happy and Safe Holiday season.

Thanks for all your help, Suellen.

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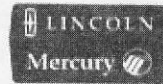
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"SEE ME PERSONALLY"

Happy Birthday

December

Tina Adams
Doreen Campbell
Eugene Caplan
Suellen Clementino
Carole Cotton
Bette Giesler
Ginger Gowing
Dora Kinghorn
Michael Kutell
Harriet Kutell
David J Luchin
Judie Markowitz
Barbara Meyer
Janet Owens
Clifford Perry
Debbie Prieto
Robert Rostron
Randall Rustin
Grace Silvis
Jeff Snow
Rodney Tison
Christine Underkofler
Gina Vithoulkas

December (con't)

Andrew Weitzen
Marci Wolff
Ronald Yuter

January

Linder Berman
Loel Brandstrom
Barbara Campbell
Mike Ciavolino
Thomas B Clark
Bruce Duggins
Joann Govatos
Richard Graf
Mary Jane Harper
Jim Keenan
Lina Kulikowski
Kathy Lohse
William Mc Cauley
Warren Overpack
Dick Philpott
Gerald Siebe
Kelly Tanner
Ray Yang

What's with the Rapport? By Susan McMahon-Marks

I have been asked numerous times about what's in, what's out, is this right or wrong...and how I feel about things. It's like this, treat people on the dance floor the way you would like to be treated.

Both on and off the floor my thoughts are similar. It's called "Social and Dance Etiquette". When I started dancing, I could think of nothing I wanted more than to be best I could while on the floor. Since the preliminaries of my first competition, I have heard, "You are seen well before you hit the floor, so you need to be on your best behavior until it's over." Similarly, when we walk into a room, no matter who we are, we are noticed. Both genders will strike someone else's attention without us knowing it. When we dance, are we slotted, "v" shaped, clumsy or graceful...again, we are noticed.

Social dancing is an intimate time in ones day with exception of our private lives. You get to share a few moments with a stranger who, in turn, gets to see inside your soul through your fingertips. It's a time when anything is accepted and an unknown part of our personality oozes out of our pores.

Leading and following are very important to a social dancer.

When a man leads through his shoulders and body, a woman doesn't get jerked off her feet and feels a continuous guide throughout the move. When a woman allows a man to lead through her fingers without pulling or using a death grip, she feels connected and will follow and smile. When we use the heel-ball-toe motion and the toe-ball-heel motion we can keep our balance centered and we begin to look like we're gliding or skating. All the tiny things that we forget to do or take for granted keep us from truly enjoying each other while dancing. If we twist from the waist up in our leads or follows, our bodies will flow through the moves and not fight them.

Ladies, when you feel connected and do not have to second-guess the lead...isn't it like you were swept off your feet? Gentlemen, when you are connected to your partner and she follows everything you've led her through shifting her weight smoothly...isn't it like power steering? When you have a wonderful dance with someone and you feel sooo connected, like you belong together, that's when your soul sings!

Social dancing is a time to greet friends, meet new friends and have fun!

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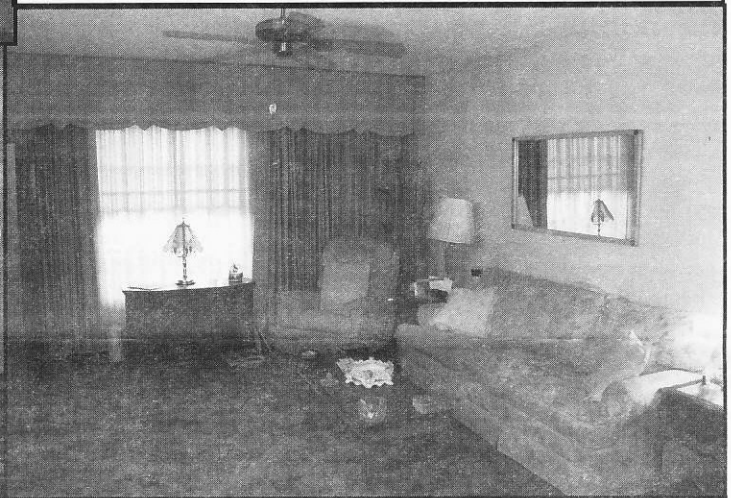
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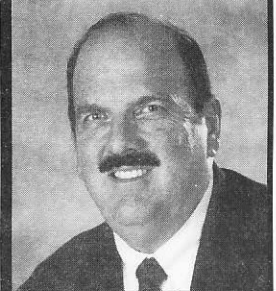
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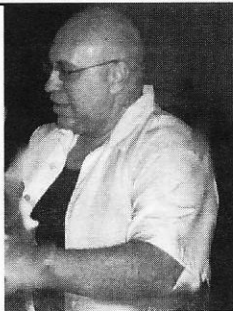
EMBRACING YOUR DANCE

Bruce Perrotta

One of the really cool things about West Coast Swing is that it is a relatively young dance. It does not have the history of many of the ballroom dances and is still evolving. If you get a chance to view videos of competitors and lessons from say even as little as 5 years ago, you will be amazed at just how much change has occurred. Since the dance is still relatively fluid, the instruction and instructors for West Coast Swing do not have a set way to instruct how the dance is performed. If you are a dancer trying to learn as much as possible, when you analyze the information you are receiving from multiple sources, it is understandable that the head scratching that ensues can lead to severe skin conditions! The information is contradictory in some cases or can be packaged in a confusing manner. How do you as a student reconcile this?

These are some thoughts on how to approach your training. The ideas are my opinion based on a background of approaching sports activity to be successful through good instruction and understanding of the game to be studied.

1. In determining your choices for instructors, watch them. Either through videos, or dancing socially, note what you like about their approach to your dance and things you would like to emulate. If you have an opportunity to take group lessons from the candidate instructor, do so. If you can understand what they are breaking down during a group lesson, you should gain a lot more during one-on-one sessions. Also, get a feel for their temperament. If you are going to be intimidated or find the instructors style to be uncomfortable, don't make the mistake of assuming it is for the student's benefit. You will get more out of working with an instructor that has patience and a rapport than with a drill instructor with a whip (Well... unless you like that sort of thing...). If you work with multiple instructors who offer different approaches, don't pit one against the other. There are no winners there. Take the best they offer you. Try what each bring to YOUR table. Decide what works for you. You may find that the "contradictory" information comes in handy as a change of pace or a way to set up a movement or pattern that your chosen approach doesn't offer. Bottom line is to use what works for you. Do not make the mistake of trying to have the instructor magically turn you



(Bruce Continued)

into a dancer. They do not have pills in a vial waiting for you. You will be asked to work. Dancing is fun and practice can be as simple as dancing whenever possible. If there are specific

exercises, take a crack at them. Don't just ask for patterns. Getting the fundamentals down should be your first big goal. Being a pattern junkie is just becoming a programmed partner. Unless someone else knows the program, you might as well be dancing by yourself.

2. Watch other dancers and videos! You may be able to pick up clues as to how to make something work by watching other dancers. You may see a move or pattern that you are curious about. On video, watching the pros perform will give you additional ideas and more feedback on the best ways to approach your dance. A good VCR or DVD with a rewind and slow motion capability is a valuable tool here. Try to capture the idea instead of just the move. Why does a move or pattern work? What can you do before or after such a move? These questions are some things to think about when you see new material. Discuss this with your instructor(s). Don't have them tell you the answers. Try to explain it to them and have them help correct the idea from your perspective.

3. Get thee to an event (or two or three... much more fun than a nunnery...). A weekend event is an opportunity to take workshops from very good instructors, watch lots of good dancing and play with many new partners. This is fun and can be a big boost to your dancing level as well as motivation.

4. You gotta Geek out once in awhile! The only way you are going to get a move, pattern, styling accent or nuance down is to try it. I don't know too many of us that get it right the first time, every time. This isn't brain surgery, so there is always another chance. Be careful, but take a shot and you just might surprise yourself. If you screw it up, have a laugh, then try it again. Most any partner will appreciate the effort and will consider it a compliment that you would be trusting of them to be involved in attempting a new move. Have fun! Don't take your play time as seriously as curing cancer. Enjoy the music, the friends and the time spent interacting with both...

Dancing Opens The Window To Our Souls...

Susan McMahon-Marks

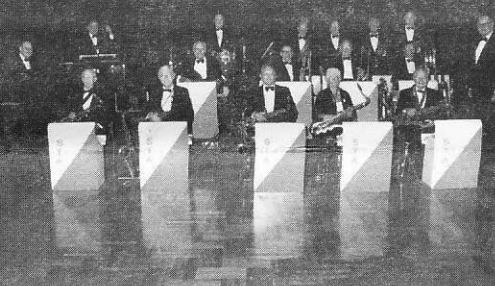
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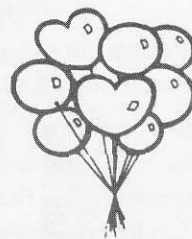
Getting To Know Each Other... Suellen Clementino

It's time we wrote about the 'usual' editor of this article, who by the way, is also the SFSDS Vice President, **Marilyn Roy**.

Marilyn, our Delta Dancin' Darlin' was born in Georgia and moved to Florida at the ripe old age of four. She graduated from Coral Gables High and was cheerleader when her school was #1 in the nation. She still resides in Miami and has one daughter, Marisa. She has been a flight attendant for Delta Airlines for twelve years and prior to that was with National and Pan American Airways. She was one of the original charter members of the SFSDS and has been dancing with a lot of the club members since the 1980's.

Marilyn is no doubt one of our most dedicated members. As Vice President she works very hard with everyone to co-ordinate all the committees and she makes sure everything is in place before every function. She is always the first one to offer her help no matter what the task might be. You might see her serving food, selling tickets at the door, selling 50-50 tickets, helping set up the tables, or welcoming new members. She is always there to lend a hand. We certainly could use some more "Marilyn's" in this club. Her favorite color is green, favorite number is 13 (incidentally was born May 13th and loves Canadian Club. I think Marilyn deserves at least 13 hats off to her for her endless efforts and next time you see her give her at least 13 rounds of thanks. MARILYN, WE APPRECIATE ALL YOUR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION TO THE SFSDS.

(Editor's Note: Marilyn is very supportive and provides many articles for this newsletter, for this I am extremely grateful! Thanks Marilyn for your continued support of SFSDS. *Jim*)



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Above: Dancin' Delta Darlin'
Marilyn Roy perfecting her
inhaling technique to be used only
in a loss of pressure situation.

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Tea Dance & Luncheon

**Friday November 28th
and every Friday**

TEL 954.977.7752 LOCATED IN THE CORNER OF SAMPLE RD AND 441 IN THE PEPPERTREE PLAZA (BEHIND PUBLIX) BRING THIS AD FOR A FREE DRINK OR BEVERAGE

Upcoming Events

- **Dances nightly** **Gold Coast Ballroom.** 1415 Lyons Road. Coconut Creek. 954-979-0770
(Lyons Plaza) www.danceatgoldcoast.com (Friday mainly WCS/Hustle)
- **Dances nightly** **Paladium.** 5688 West Sample Road (Peppertree Plaza), Margate, 954-977-7752
Tuesday, Hustle, Swing & Salsa. Wednesday - Live band, mixed dancing (see ad)
- **Wed-Sun** **Round Up** 9020 West State Road 84, Davie, FL 33324. 954-423-1990
- **Thursdays** **SwingAffair. Club Pearls** www.swingaffair.com
1710 East Hallandale Beach Blvd. in Hallandale Beach
- **Dances nightly** **Palm Beach Ballroom.** 302 N. Dixie Highway. Lake Worth. 561-533-5878
Swing Dancing most Wednesdays, every Friday evening and Sunday afternoon
- **2nd Saturday** **Ritz Ballroom.** 651 Indiantown Road. Jupiter.
2nd Saturday is Swing night in Jupiter.
- **2nd & 4th Sat** **SwingAffair. American Legion Hall**
171 American Legion Boulevard. Pompano Beach, FL.
- **2nd & 4th Sat** **Star Ballroom. Swing/Hustle every other Saturday**
(Rescheduled to 1st and 3rd Sat in December only)
2309 Atlantic Ave. Pompano Beach, FL
- **Third Sunday** **Texan on the Trax.** 303 SW 6th St. Pompano. (3:30 PM) 954-933-9794
- **December 19, Fri** **SFSDS Monthly Dance.** German-American Club. 6400 Washington St. Hollywood. 7:30 PM
- **December 31** **New Year's Eve Party.** American Legion (Post 222) Oakland Park.
- **January 17 Sat** **SFSDS Monthly Dance.** German-American Club. 6400 Washington St. Hollywood. 7:30PM
- **Beg. January 7,** Wednesday. 7-9 pm Classes in West Coast Swing. Held at FAU **(a 5 Week beginner session)**
1515 West Commercial Blvd. (954) 229-4107 or 954-474-1010
- **February 1** **Coral Gables Elks.** 6304 SW 78 St. So. Miami
Mike Suman's Swing City (Call Virginia @305-223-6666)



Swing Dancers HotLine (305) 944-9917
Address Correction Requested



SWING TIME!

South Florida Swing Dance Society, Inc.
P.O.Box 81-4147 Hollywood, FL. 33081-4147

